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CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1953

"Echo" Office, Haverhill

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1953, on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Clare Rural District.

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory and differ only slightly from those for the country as a whole. Rates dealing with small figures are not significant. A severe outbreak of measles occurred in the first quarter of the year, but no deaths resulted.

Efforts were made by the Public Health Committee to start on a sewerage system for Clare and Cavendish, but no starting date was given.

Efforts were made to improve the cleanliness of the handling of meat, particularly in transit.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help which I have received from Mr. J. Allpress, the Clerk of the Council, and Mr. H. A. Smith, Senior Sanitary Inspector. I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the period reviewed.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Figures in brackets relate to the corresponding figures for 1952

Area of the District		49,360 acres
Number of Parishes		24
Rateable Value		£36,504
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£148
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books		3014 (2989)
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	(9,527)	9,606
,, (1951 Census)		9,406

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(68) 54	(48) 67	(116) 121
Illegitimate	(2) 4	(5) 1	(7) 5
Totals ...	(70) 58	(53) 68	(123) 126

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) ...	(12.9)	13.12
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(15.6)	15.88
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(15.3)	15.5
Illegitimate Birth Rate...	(6.5%)	3.9%

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(1) 1	(1) 3	(2) 4
Illegitimate	(—) —	(—) —	(—) —
Totals ...	(1) 1	(1) 3	(2) 4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	(16.0)	30 7

Deaths:

Male	Female	Total
(62) 56	(68) 61	(130) 117

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(13.7)	12.18
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)	(10.8)	9.62
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.3)	11.4
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...		Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	(1)	—	(—)	—	(1)	—
Illegitimate	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—
Totals ...	(1)	—	(—)	—	(1)	—

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	(8.1)	—
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	(8.6)	—
(c) All Infants England and Wales	(27.6)	26.8

	1943	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53
Birth Rates	17.5	37.8	17.2	23.0	19.0	18.6	17.7	17.0	15.7	12.9	15.9
Death Rates	14.5	13.4	13 8	12.6	15.1	13.9	13.3	12.2	16 9	13.7	9.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male		Female		Total	
Measles	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Whooping Cough	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Diphtheria	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0
Cancer (all types)	(10)	9	(15)	13	(25)	22
Heart Diseases	(17)	26	(29)	23	(46)	49
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(11)	3	(10)	12	(21)	15
Influenza	(0)	3	(0)	0	(0)	3
Pneumonia	(3)	5	(3)	3	(6)	8
Bronchitis	(1)	0	(0)	1	(1)	1
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Accidents (all other) ...	(7)	2	(3)	1	(10)	3
Suicide	(0)	1	(0)	1	(0)	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	(13)	7	(8)	7	(21)	14
Total ...	(62)	56	(68)	61	(130)	117

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

(a) Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts (Appointed 1st October, 1950).

(b) Sanitary Inspectors.
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. Boulton (appointed 16th February, 1953).

HOSPITALS:

There are no Hospitals within the area.

WATER SUPPLIES:

The Council have three sources of supply at Clare, Hundon and Great Wratting. They show no signs of any tendency to plumbo-solvency.

Clare:

These works continued to supply the parish of Clare until the 3rd June when the town was connected to the General District mains distribution scheme. The two boreholes and 65,000 gallon reservoir situated on the Upper Common remain as a reserve source of supply of water to Clare if the emergency should arise.

From the 31st October, 1952, until the closing down of this source, a total of 4,843,750 gallons of water was pumped from these boreholes.

The increase in pressure in the original Clare mains due to connecting to the new General District water scheme necessitated the installation of a pressure reducing valve at Snow Hill. It was also found necessary to install a chlorinator at this point in the supply, due to pollution of the Clare mains which it is felt is caused by leaking mains in the old system. It is extremely difficult to find such leaks but every effort is being made to do so.

Hundon:

This single borehole pump and engine is in sole use supplying water to the Stradishall R.A.F. Station. The old Hundon village supply now being connected to the new mains distribution system.

Water abstracted from this borehole over the 12 months ending 31st October was 23,347,000 gallons. Treatment is by two mechanical sand filters and sample results show that a good and wholesome water is being supplied although it is 'hard' at 24.35 degrees (in grains per gallon).

Great Wratting:

Duplicate boreholes, pumps and starters supply water to Hundon Reservoir for distribution by gravitation to the Low Level Area.

For the period ending 31st October, 34,027,000 gallons of water were pumped from this source. Analysis show it is wholesome and fit for drinking purposes with a hardness of 28.28 degrees (in grains per gallon).

The water is chlorinated at source.

A source of supply to the High Level area is not yet in use but it is anticipated will be functioning early in 1954.

WATER CARTING :

A number of tanks to which water is carted are still in use supplying properties in the High Level area of Depden, Ousden and North Wickhambrook. Some tanks are also a means of supply in other parts of the area where no water mains are available.

It is anticipated that by the end of 1954 approximately 12 tanks only will remain.

PUMPS AND WELLS :

The 24 public pumps throughout the area are now largely out of use due to the installation of your piped water scheme. These pumps produced water unfit to drink and it is hoped that eventually they will be removed and the wells filled up.

GENERAL :

A bulk supply of water is given to Haverhill U.D.C. by meter to serve a number of houses in that area, and a bulk supply is purchased from that Council to supply a small number of houses in the Withersfield Parish.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

The Council having now been given permission to invite tenders for the installation of sewers at Clare, and the building of the sewage disposal works at Clare Hill to accommodate drainage also from Cavendish, it is hoped that every effort will be made to obtain Ministry consent to the laying of sewers at Cavendish, and further village sewerage schemes will be favourably considered by the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :

One refuse vehicle run by a driver and filler collects bin refuse from over 90 per cent. of houses in the area. Fortnightly collections take place in 14 parishes and once per month in the remaining parts of your area.

Night soil collection from pail closets in the built up areas of Clare and Cavendish is also undertaken by the Council.

The Council have acquired the use of a quarry at Denston for refuse disposal and the Clare tip, now levelled off, is no longer in use. A second tip is available at Wickhambrook and a third at Kedington is being investigated.

Council house cesspools throughout the area, and closet vaults in Clare are cleared by Contract quarterly.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Housing Defects	271
Infectious Disease	4
Drainage Improvements	102
Sewage Disposal	103
Water Supply	848
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	123
Factory Acts	41
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yard	6
Food Shops and Food Preparation Premises ...	33
Milk and Dairies Acts	10
Refuse Collection and Disposal	78
Tents, Vans, Caravans, etc.	14
Petroleum Acts	11
Miscellaneous Visits including housing inspections	328
Verminous Premises and Infectious Diseases ...	22
Food Inspection	17

Housing Improvements Carried Out due to Informal Action :

Internal Structural Defects (ceilings, stairs, floors, etc.)	15
External Structural Defects (walls, roofs, gutters, etc.)	16
Drainage	20
Sanitary Accommodation	6
Water Supply	8

HOUSING :

Complaints received (defects)	43
Informal Notices sent to Owners...	30
Statutory Notices Served	5
Court Actions	1
Nuisances abated	26

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :

Foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption ;

Fish	11 stones
Tinned Goods	55 lbs.
Meat (from Retailed Shops)...	42 lbs.
Meat (from Abattoir) ...	6 tons 16 cwts.

Disposal of Rejected Meat and Foods :

Meat rejected at the Blunts Hall Abbatoir is sold by the Ministry of Food to a Contractor for processing.

Milk Supply :

Milk Special Designation Supplementary Licences in force in area	4

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 :

Slaughter Houses	10
Knackers Yards	2

Ice Cream Premises :

Manufacturers	None
Registered for Sale	14

Offensive Trades :

Offensive Trade Premises	1

Fried Fish Shops :

Fried Fish and Chip Shop	1

Outworkers :

81 persons are on the Council's register as doing outwork under Section 110 of the Factories Act.

30 are engaged in making firework containers.

51 are engaged in making wearing apparel.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of the Notifiable Diseases during the year 1953 remained low and calls for no special comment.

Infective Hepatitis is notifiable in this District. No cases were notified.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 and over	Un-known Age	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	— —	— 1	(1) 4	(1) —	— —	— —	— —	— —	(2) 5
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	(1) 2	(5) 5	(8) 1	(22) 2	(2) —	— —	— —	— —	(38) 10
Measles.. ..	— 2	(3) 21	(4) 29	(8) 58	— 10	(3) 2	— 1	— —	(18) 123
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	(1) —	1	—	—	—	(1) (1)
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	(1) —	—	—	—	—	(1) —

SECTION D.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	18	11	29	5	6	11	40
No. of cases added during the year	2	2	4	—	—	—	4
No. of cases removed during year	3	3	6	1	3	4	10
No. remaining on register at end of year	17	10	27	4	3	7	34

Reasons for Removal from Register:

Recovered 4; Died 3; Left District 2; Diagnosis not confirmed 1.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION E.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

One case presented during the year called for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

SECTION F.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written notices (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	2			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	39	14			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3					3
TOTAL		41	16			

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2				4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) insufficient	9						9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10						10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL		2	2				

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.